

Civil War Defenses of Washington Newsletter



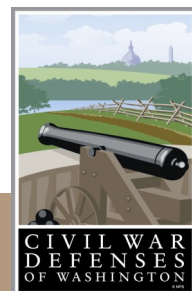
Fort Marcy	Fort Reno	Battleground	Fort Slocum	Fort Mahan	Fort Davis	Battery Carroll
Battery Kemble	Fort DeRussy	National	Fort Totten	Fort Chaplin	Fort Stanton	Fort Greble
Fort Bayard	Fort Stevens	Cemetery	Fort Bunker Hill	Fort Dupont	Fort Ricketts	Fort Foote

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

Spring 2012

Vol. III Issue 1

www.nps.gov/cwdw



CWDW welcomes Kym Elder By: NPS

The National Park Service (NPS) has named 24-year NPS veteran Kym Elder as the new Program Manager for the Civil War Defenses of Washington, a position where Elder will oversee a complex system of National Park Service-managed Civil War fortifications in the District, Maryland and Northern Virginia built to defend the city of Washington and specifically the White House from Confederate attack. Elder begins her new position on March 19.

In her new duties, Elder will manage the coordination of conservation and historic preservation efforts with appropriate visitor use, including hiking and biking trails, with the staffs of Rock Creek Park, National Capital Parks -East and the George Washington Memorial Parkway, all national parks in which the Civil War Defenses of Washington are situated. The Civil War Defenses of Washington are

currently the subject of a design charette for building a framework that strengthens the thematic, topographic, and ecological threads throughout the park sites

"I'm excited about the experience, ability and knowledge that Kym Elder brings to this position," said NPS National Capital Region Director Steve Whitesell. "Kym has excelled in every position she has held in the NPS and I know Kym will achieve great advances for the Civil War Defenses of Washington. We have the right person with the right skill set for this job."

Elder comes to the Civil War Defenses of Washington after serving the last three years as Superintendent of Ford's Theatre National Historic Site and Petersen House, the house where President Abraham Lincoln died.

While at Ford's, Elder oversaw the completion of the Theatre's major renovations in

(Continued as **Welcome** on page 4)



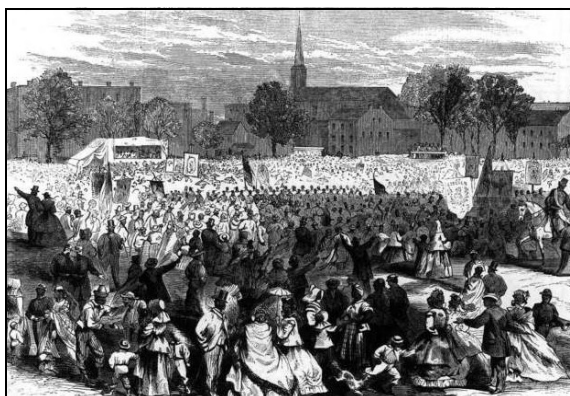
The Peterson House, part of Ford's Theatre National Historic Sites and the house where President Lincoln died, WikiCommons photo



The path to freedom By: Wesley Gant, NPS

In 1862 the senior senator from Massachusetts, Charles Sumner, approached President Abraham Lincoln and asked him, "Do you know who at this moment is the largest slave owner in the United States?" The question stumped Lincoln and led Sumner to inform him that he (Lincoln) was. According to Sumner's interpretation of the Constitution the President held all the slaves in the District of Columbia in bondage, because as leader of the federal government he had the right to "exercise exclusive legislation" over the federal district. In Sumner's view the only thing allowing the bondage of over 3,000 slaves in the District of Columbia was that the President allowed it.

Prior to the 1860's, many northern states had experimented with various methods to ending slavery. Only Vermont which became a state in 1777 addressed the topic in its state constitution. Most states followed the example of Connecticut which banned the importation of slaves in 1774 and in 1784 laid out a plan of gradual emancipation



A Harper's Weekly sketch of Dc Citizens celebrating Emancipation Day in 1866, NARA image.

(MA, NH, NJ, NY, and RI also passed gradual emancipation). Meanwhile states south of Pennsylvania were not so quick to grant freedom to the enslaved. The states of Delaware, Maryland, Kentucky, Missouri, and the District of Columbia still had slavery and slave holders as the Civil War raged on in 1862.

As a member of the House of Representatives in 1849, Lincoln had introduced a bill that would

(Continued as **Compensated** on page 4)



Featured Fort: Fort Ricketts

The name of the fort may commemorate Capt. James B. Ricketts, an officer of the 4th US Artillery who distinguished himself during First Manassas by capturing a Confederate battery; or Capt. R Bruce Ricketts of the PA Light Artillery, who later became the Chief of Artillery for the IX Corps.

The fort protected a small country road that entered the District's Southeast corner leading to Uniontown (modern day Anacostia) and the Navy Yard. The fort was relatively small with only a 123 yard perimeter and constructed in early 1862. Due to its small size, It is sometimes referred to as a battery. In 1863, Fort Stanton would be built behind Fort Ricketts reducing its importance. Fort Ricketts was never heavily armed often only mounting less than five guns. In March of 1865 the fort was armed with an 8in Howitzer, 3 - 12-pdr Napoleon field guns, and 4 smoothbore cannons.

Spring 2012 CWDW Newsletter
Editor: Wesley Gant
Contributors: Simone Monteleone, Mark Maloy, Thomas Safranek, Mary Brazell

Civil War Defenses of Washington Newsletter



All NPS events
are **FREE**



Volunteer
Opportunity



Ranger Talk
1 hour



Ranger led
Hike 1 hour



Bike Ride
(bring your own bike)



Community
event



Civil War Defenses of Washington

Spring Calendar

Non-NPS events highlighted in red

(Water and comfortable shoes are recommended for all hikes)



April

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					



April 7 9AM Nature Center: Rock Creek Civil War Round

Table - Join the Fort Stevens Working Group for a discussion on new research findings about Civil War Washington. (5200 Glover Rd NW, Washington, DC).



April 7 11AM Nature Center: Fort DeRussy Hike - Discover what life was like for Union soldiers encamped at Fort DeRussy on this one-mile hike. Learn how the fort helped defend Washington. Parking on site (5200 Glover Rd NW, Washington, DC).



April 7 2PM Nature Center: 150th Anniversary of DC Emancipation - Discover the changes that were brought to Washington City after local slaves were freed. Parking on site (5200 Glover Rd NW, Washington, DC).



April 7 4PM Surratt House Museum: The Maryland Campaign of 1862 - Join historian Dennis Frye for a presentation exploring the battle for Maryland. For more information visit www.surratt.org. Parking on site (9118 Brandywine Rd. Clinton, MD).



April 11 11AM-2PM Arlington House: Learn about the importance of Arlington House during the Civil War. Parking available at Arlington National Cemetery Visitor Center (Arlington National Cemetery, Arlington, VA).



April 14 9AM-12PM Fort Washington: Potomac River Watershed Cleanup - Join the Alice Ferguson Foundation and thousands of volunteers of all ages. Parking on site (13551 Fort Washington Rd, Fort Washington, MD)



April 14 2PM Frederick Douglas NHS: Emancipation Day Commemoration Lecture Program - Join the National Park Service in collaboration with Office of DC Councilmember Vincent Orange and DC Reading Is Fundamental, Inc. to celebrate the 150th anniversary of Emancipation Day in Washington. Parking on street (1411 W Street, SE Washington, DC).



April 15 1PM Fort Greble: Washingtonians in the Civil War - Learn about the daily life of the men who manned the Civil War Defenses of Washington. Parking available on site (200 Elmira Street SE, Washington, DC).



April 16 11AM 150th Anniversary DC Emancipation Day

Parade: Celebrate the end of Slavery in the District of Columbia by attending a parade to celebrate freedom. (parade route is on Pennsylvania Ave., NW from 4th to Freedom Plaza at 14th Street).



April 21 1PM Fort Dupont: Jazz Concert

Join the National Park Service for a free concert featuring Boys and Girls Club of greater DC with Victor Provost and Tony Small. Parking on site (Fort Dupont Dr SE, DC).



April 25 11AM-2PM Arlington House: See April 11 Info.



April 28 11AM-3PM Fort Ward: Civil War balloon corps & encampment - Learn about the use of aerial balloons for military reconnaissance during the Civil War, and the little known balloon ascensions that occurred in the West End of Alexandria early in the war. Parking on site (4301 West Braddock Rd. Alexandria, VA).



April 28 10AM-5PM Anacostia Park Skating Pavilion:

Anacostia River & Jazz Festival - Join the National Park Service and Smithsonian Jazz for a concert featuring Marcus Johnson, Fred Yonnet, the Brazilian Jazz Band "Origem". There will also be a Open House with information about all the parks of National Capital Parks East and many family friendly activities such as face painting, and canoeing. Parking on site (Anacostia Dr., SE, Washington, D.C.).

May

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		



May 5 9AM Nature Center Rock Creek Civil War Round

Table - See April 7 info.



May 5 11AM Nature Center Fort DeRussy Hike - See April 7 info.



May 5 2PM Fort Stevens The Union's Field Hospital The years of the Civil War transformed the buildings and farmland of Washington into field hospitals. Discover the stories of wounded and sick soldiers and the men and women that cared for them. Parking on site (1300 Quakenbos NW, Washington, DC).



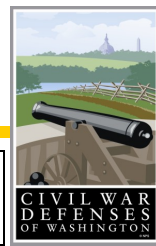
May 6 1-3PM Fort Washington: Civil War Artillery

Demonstration - See Civil War Artillery. Parking on site (13551 Fort Washington Rd, Fort Washington, MD)



May 6 1PM Fort Marcy: Occupied Virginia - Hear stories about what it was like for Northern Virginians when Federal troops surged across the Potomac and began constructing the Civil War Defenses of

Civil War Defenses of Washington Newsletter



All NPS events
are **FREE**



Volunteer
Opportunity



Ranger Talk
1 hour



Ranger led
Hike 1 hour



Bike Ride
(bring your own bike)



Community
event

Washington. Parking on site (Northbound George Washington Memorial Parkway, McLean, VA).

May 9 11AM-2PM Arlington House: See April 11 Info.

May 12 1PM Fort Dupont Activity Center: the forest in bloom - Join a Ranger for a walk down the Hollow Tree Trail and see what plants are in bloom. Parking on site (Fort Dupont Dr., SE Washington, DC)

May 18 7Am - 9 AM Washington DC: Bike to Work Day - Take this chance to save gas, and get some exercise. Refreshment stations will be set up throughout the city including the corner of MLK Ave. and Good Hope Rd. SE, for more info visit www.biketoworkmetrodc.com

May 19 10AM-Noon Arlington National Cemetery: Arlington Taps 150 - Commemorate the 150th anniversary of the cadence "Taps" at the Old Amphitheatre. Parking available at Arlington National Cemetery Visitor Center (Arlington National Cemetery, Arlington, VA).

May 19 10AM & 2PM Fort Ward: Soldier led Walking tours - In honor of Armed Forces Day, a Union soldier in period uniform will lead walking tours of Fort Ward. Parking on site (4301 West Braddock Rd. Alexandria, VA).

May 19 1PM Fort Foote: Through the Ages - Join a park Ranger to learn about the continually evolving defenses of Washington from 1812 to the present day. Parking on site (8915 Fort Foote Rd, Fort Washington, MD)

May 20 1PM Fort Dupont Activity Center: The Civil War in Cinema - Join a ranger to view a selection of film clips that brought the Civil War to the theater. Learn where they got it right or wrong. Parking on site (Fort Dupont Dr., SE Washington, DC).

May 23 11AM-2PM Arlington House: See April 11 Info.

May 24 7PM Fort Ward: Civil War Concert with the Washington Revels - Enjoy an evening performance of songs from the Civil War era in the Fort Ward Park Amphitheater. Parking on site (4301 West Braddock Rd. Alexandria, VA).

May 26 2PM Battle Ground National Cemetery: Battleground Cemetery Talk - Learn the stories of bravery and sacrifice of the Civil War soldiers who died during the Battle of Fort Stevens. Parking available on street (6600 block of Georgia Avenue NW, Washington, DC).



June 2 11AM Fort DeRussy Hike - see April 7th info.

June 2 1PM Intersection of MLK and Malcolm X SE - A City of Parks - Join a Ranger to learn about how a swamp was transformed into the capital of a country and the steps that planners made to include parks in the grand design. Parking on street (500 block of Malcolm X Ave, SE Washington, DC)



June 2 2PM Fort Stevens The Union's Field Hospital - see May 5th info.



June 3 Fort Washington: Civil War Artillery Demonstration: See May 6th info.



June 3 1PM Fort Dupont: The Defenses of Washington Early in the War - Join a Ranger at the Fort Dupont earthworks and learn about Civil War Defenses of Washington in 1862. Parking available on site (4000 block of Alabama Ave SE, Washington, DC).



June 6 11AM-2PM Arlington House: See April 11 Info.



June 10 1PM Fort Marcy: See May 6th Info.



June 16 10AM Alexandria Archaeology Museum: Civil War in Northern Virginia - William Connery, who will speak about his recent book, "Civil War Northern Virginia 1861." This event is free but reservations are required call 703.746.4399 or email archaeology@alexandriava.gov. Parking on street (105 N. Union St. Alexandria, VA).



June 20 11AM-2PM Arlington House: See April 11 Info.



June 24 10AM Fort Greble: Fort Greble Nature Hike - Join a Ranger for a fall nature walk through Fort Greble to see wild turkeys and the changing leave colors. The park was built during the American Civil War and today is a perfect site to appreciate the natural resources the nation's capital has to offer. Parking is available Street (200 Elmira Street SE Washington, DC.)



June 30 4PM Surratt House Museum: VICTORS, NOT VICTIMS: THE UNITED STATES COLORED TROOPS' ROLE IN THE AMERICAN CIVIL WAR - Hari Jones, curator of the African-American Civil War Memorial and Museum, gives an in-depth history of the origins and importance of the USCT's contribution to the American Civil War. For more information visit www.surratt.org. Parking on site (9118 Brandywine Rd. Clinton, MD).



June 30 Arlington House: Grand Re-Opening and Re-Dedication - After nearly six years of restoration and rehabilitation to the interior of the mansion. All of the furnishings are returning and the house will be opened to visitors more fully restored to its 1861 appearance than ever before. The program will include talks and tours, period music and dancing and a ceremony marking the occasion. For more information visit www.nps.gov/arho

June

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30

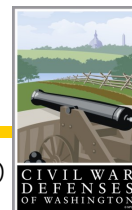


June 2 9AM Rock Creek Civil War Round Table - see April 7th info.

Celebrating 150 years of Emancipation

Check out www.culturaltourismDC.org and learn how you can participate in an Emancipation Day scavenger hunt

Civil War Defenses of Washington Newsletter



(Continued from **Compensated** on page 1)

have abolished slavery in the District. That bill was never voted on. By 1862, Lincoln's role had changed and when a bill calling for a compensated emancipation in the District of Columbia reached his desk, he signed it. The legislation signed on April 12, 1862 offered slave owners in the District up to \$300 to compensate their loss and the US government offered the newly freed slaves the option to be resettled outside the United States. A three man committee was appointed to assess the value of each slave. The committee had at its disposal one million dollars for compensation and one hundred thousand dollars to re-colonize those that chose to leave the country. Over the next three months the committee heard 3,100 cases from slave holders.

The compensated emancipation of slaves in the District of Columbia was the first step in the changing policy of the Union Government. On January 1, 1863, Lincoln would begin to enforce the Emancipation Proclamation freeing slaves within the rebellious states. Despite this shift in policy it did not change the slavery in the Border States that had remained loyal to the Union. Slavery would not end until the signing of the 13th Amendment in 1865.

After the Civil War many African American communities began to celebrate the day they had learned of their freedom. In Washington, DC April 16th was celebrated as "Emancipation Day" from 1866-1901 with a parade and other festivities. As the population of those that had been directly affected by the emancipation aged the holiday fell out of favor with the general public. It was not until the 1990's that a movement to celebrate this turning point in DC history regained prominence. This April 16th marchers will parade down Pennsylvania Avenue to Freedom Square to commemorate the 150th anniversary of the end of slavery in the district.



The 17th New York Independent Battery. LOC photo

(Continued from **Welcome** on page 1)

time for the Lincoln bicentennial birthday celebration in February 2009.

In her time at Ford's Theatre, Elder successfully sought and secured funding to undergo a major repair and rehabilitation project at the Petersen House, located across 10th Street from Ford's Theatre (the site where President Lincoln died in the early morning hours of April 15, 1865). The Peterson House project included HVAC installation, structural reinforcement and internal/external improvements to preserve and conserve the historic structure. Additionally, Elder oversaw the implementation of a new timed ticketing system and helped substantially increase on-site, collaborative educational programs for local schools with the Ford's Theatre Society's educational team.

"I couldn't be more excited about this new position and the challenges it presents," added Elder. "I have the chance to make a strong impact on how the Civil War Defenses of Washington will be managed for future generations. I am looking forward to working with the many partners who care passionately about these places, as well as the other agencies that manage Civil War Defense forts in Virginia."



The 17th New York Independent Battery. LOC photo



Have Ideas? Contact Us!

Kym Elder — Program Manager
Civil War Defenses of Washington
3545 Williamsburg Lane NW Washington, DC 20008
(202) 829-2161 / Kym_Elder@nps.gov

George Washington Memorial Parkway offering group tours!

The George Washington Memorial Parkway offers Civil War Defenses of Washington tours at several locations along the Parkway at a group's request. Group size is flexible, except with Bike or Paddle tours.

Please call 703-289-2553 to request a tour or more information.

Civil War History of Fort Marcy - Explore the remnants of one of the best preserved forts that protected D.C. during the Civil War and learn the stories of the soldiers and civilians that shaped it. Tour length is flexible.

Fort Marcy & Fort Ethan Allen Hike - Walk from Fort Marcy to Fort Ethan Allen with a ranger to learn their important role during the Civil War of protecting access into D.C. via the Chain Bridge. Round trip tour takes about 2 - 2 1/2 hours.

Civil War History of Theodore Roosevelt Island - Discover the unique Civil War history of the island when it was transformed into a military station, which included a training camp for the 1st United States Colored Troops Regiment and Contraband Camp. Tour lengths are flexible.

Capital Defenses Bike Tour - Grab your bike and visit several sites along the Mount Vernon Trail that tell the stories of protecting the nation's capital. Participants are required to bring their own bike and helmet. Tours leave from Theodore Roosevelt Island or Gravelly Point and are 2 hours long. Limited to 20 people.

Capital Defenses Paddle Tour - View the history of protecting the nation's capital from the Potomac River. This 2-3 hour tour leaves from Columbia Island Marina or Theodore Roosevelt Island. Participants must bring their own kayak/canoe, paddle, life jacket, and noise-making device. Limited to 15 people.